

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 ACDA-05 EUR-12

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R 050430Z MAR 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO HUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3319

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 364

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN REACTION TO PRC SIGNALS

REF: NEW DELHI 2771

1. INDIAN EMBASSY DIPLOMATS IN PEKING, WHILE CLAIMING THEY HAVE NO OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM NEW DELHI, HAVE REACTED IN SAME FASHION AS MEA POSTURE REPORTED REFTEL. ACTING INDIAN EMBASSY CHARGE SRINIVAS TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO CALL ON USLO OFFICER WITH THE OBVIOUS PURPOSE OF PRESENTING A POINT BY POINT REFUTATION OF THE SIGNALS ALLEGEDLY CONVEYED BY THE CHINESE SIDE. HE SAID HAN NIEN-LUNG'S ATTENDANCE AT GOI NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION MEANT NOTHING POINTING OUT THAT A VICE MINISTER HAD ALSO ATTENDED LAST YEAR. CHEN HSI-LIEN'S TRAVEL TO KATHMANDU VIA CALCUTTA WAS CHARACTERIZED AS MERELY A CONVENIENT TRAVEL ARRANGEMENT AND SO CALLED PING PONG DIPLOMACY WAS CHARACTERIZED AS STRICTLY ROUTINE AFFAIR WITH ARRANGEMENTS SAID TO HAVE BEEN MADE
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IN AUGUST 1973 DURING THE PING PONG TOURNAMENT IN PEKING.

2. SRINIVAS WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT FORCES AGAINST RAPPROCHMENT WITH CHINA WERE STRONG IN INDIA. FOR EXAMPLE, THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA WAS BEHOLDEN TO THE SOVIET UNION AND WAS OPPOSED; ON THE RIGHT THE CONSERVATIVES FIRMLY WERE AGAINST ANY INITIATIVES BY THE INDIAN SIDE; THEREFORE, YOU HAD A STRONG MIX OPPOSING ANY AMELIORATION OF SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS. SRINIVAS SAID THE INDIANS HAD LEARNED THEIR LESSON IN 1962 AND WERE NOT ABOUT TO TAKE THE CHINESE AT FACE VALUE. IN PARTING HE REMARKED THAT SOVIET DEFENSE MINISTER GRECHKO HAD JUST VISITED IN INDIA AND THAT WOULD GIVE THE CHINESE SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.

3. INDIAN EMBASSY SECOND SECRETARY SHYAM SARAN TOOK SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT TACK WITH USLO OFFICER MARCH 4, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT CHINESE HAD BEEN CONVEYING DELIBERATE SIGNALS THAT THEY WOULD LIKE AN IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS. SARAN SAID INDIA IS IN NO HURRY TO RESPOND AND THAT IT DID NOT WANT TO BE IN THE POSITION OF CHASING AFTER THE CHINESE. WHEN USLO OFFICER NOTED CHEN HSI-LIEN'S POSITIVE STATEMENTS DURING CALCUTTA INTERVIEW, SARAN SAID THESE STATEMENTS WOULD HAVE HAD FAR GREATER SIGNIFICANCE IF THEY HAD BEEN CARRIED BY NCNA.

4. INDIANS HERE HAVE BEEN QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT, ALMOST COINCIDENTALLY WITH GESTURES OF FRIENDSHIP LEVEL OF ANTI-INDIAN PROPAGANDA HAS AGAIN GONE UP. IN PARTICULAR THEY NOTE THAT CHINESE HAVE RESPONDED WITH A MARCH 3 PEOPLE'S DAILY COMMENTATOR ARTICLE ATTACKING THE KASHMIR SETTLEMENT, AND THEY ARE NOW WAITING TO SEE WHETHER THE PRC CONTINUES THE CAMPAIGN TO INCLUDE AN OFFICIAL FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT AS IN THE CASE OF SIKKIM.
BUSH

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